

Aug. 1, 2016

GLOBAL VIEW

Dunford Arrives in Baghdad for Counter-ISIL Talks

DoD News, July 30

CJCS Gen. Joe Dunford arrived in Baghdad Saturday for talks with CJTF-OIR leaders on the status of the counter-ISIL campaign.

Calm Before Storm as Counter-ISIL Coalition Plans Mosul Offensive

DoD News, July 31

CJTF-OIR: Right now there is a tactical pause in Iraq, but not an operational pause.

ISIL's oil revenues decimated as smuggling routes turn into death traps

Financial Post, July 29

Oil smuggling has been cut by 90%.

On the road with Niger's peacekeepers in Mali

Al Jazeera, July 31

Journalists embed with Niger peacekeepers (Nigerbat) and observed convoy protection from IEDs.

Afghan troops press offensive against Islamic State

Reuters, July 30

The Afghan army has launched an offensive against ISIL, which is now believed to have been confined to three or four districts in eastern Afghanistan.

Islamic State Threat in Europe Shifts

Wall Street Journal, July 28

The mushrooming of small-scale terror attacks in Europe has allowed Islamic State and its adherents to keep people here on edge without having to train and equip teams to pull off highly sophisticated operations.

Turkish President Rebukes U.S. General

Wall Street Journal, July 30,

"We've certainly had relationships with a lot of Turkish leaders, military leaders in particular, so I'm concerned about what the impact is on those relationships," Gen. Votel said at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado. "Some of them are in jail."

Pentagon will strike rebranded Nusra Front after split from al Qaeda

The Hill, July 29

The Pentagon is planning to strike Islamist group formerly known as Jabhat al Nusra, or the Nusra Front, even though it has split from al Qaeda, its parent organization, a spokesman said Friday.

THREAT NETWORKS

Local terrorism analyst monitors Islamic State social media

Post and Courier, July 31

Michael S. Smith II has been monitoring Islamic State social media as the jihadist group spreads its message and recruits new members. Over time, he has pieced together a clear enough picture of their activities to publish reports on terrorism and advise members of Congress working on counterterrorism policy.

Islamic State Strikes Oil, Gas Facilities in Iraq

Wall Street Journal, July 31

Four suicide bombers hit the Bai Hassan oil field, prompting an hours-long standoff with local forces, said a colonel with the Kurdish Peshmerga forces that control the area. The field is one of the largest in the region of Kirkuk, producing more than 175,000 barrels a day, according to oil officials.

How Chechens became key Daesh fighters

The Saturday Paper, July 30

How did the Georgian-born Chechen Omar al-Shishani, killed in Iraq this month, come to be one of Daesh's key commanders in the 'caliphate' in Syria and Iraq?

Brother-in-law of IS leader al-Baghdadi said killed in Iraq

Times of Israel, July 30

Airstrike in town near Syrian border kills 12 other high-ranking terror figures; IED-making lab, weapons depot also destroyed.

Many Islamic State leaders trying to flee to Syria – Iraqi minister

Reuters, July 30

Khaled al-Obeidi said he had intelligence of increasing conflict, especially over financial issues, among ultra-hardline militants of the group known as Daesh in Arabic by its enemies.

Muqtada al Sadr and his followers in Iraq are 'thirsty for Americans' blood'

Military Times, July 30

For the first time in years, the Iraqi Shiite cleric Muqtada al Sadr and his militia are unleashing fiery anti-American rhetoric and threatening to attack U.S. troops.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

What Are the Military Applications of Real-Life Hoverboards?

Inverse, July 25

The most common improvised explosive devices are pressure-activated; IEDs are very common and very deadly in modern warfare. Hovercraft might not activate these pressure plates.

Toward the holy grail of body armor

Boston Globe, July 31

"One of the key methods of injury from [improvised explosive devices] is tiny little fragments that penetrate the groin, pelvic, and anal areas," says Francisco Martinez, chief technology officer for the Boston-based company Protect the Force, which makes equipment for soldiers. "Those are areas where, when a fragment breaks an artery, it's hard to stop the bleeding."

How AIM Photonics will work with the Defense Department

Democrat & Chronical, July 30

DoD plans to spend \$110 million on research and operations. But with the money comes expectations. Much like how night-vision goggles and laser targeting gave soldiers a crucial advantage decades ago, defense officials say they're expecting AIM Photonics to help upgrade military capabilities.

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University of Maryland and U.S. Army Research Lab to Collaborate on HPC

Inside HPC, July 30

As a result of this synergistic partnership, students, professors, engineers and researchers will have unprecedented access to technologies that enable scientific discovery and innovation.

DISA Receives Funding for Innovative Technologies

MeriTalk, July 29

The DISA Rapid Innovation Fund (RIF) Program is a research and development project and process in support of critical defense acquisitions programs, and U.S. warfighters.

Student builds bomb detecting robot for the Peshmerga

Rudraw, July 31

As it searches for and finds bombs the robot will send images to the operator. It can also estimate the distance between itself and the bomb.

How DARPA creates and sustains innovation

GCN, July 29

Agencies that struggle to innovate and create a forward-thinking culture might take a few tips from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which attributes its success to longstanding agency values.

The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Intelligence Agencies

The National Interest, July 18

When a new capability is conceived or developed, the intelligence community does not assign anyone responsibility for anticipating how a new AI algorithm may go awry.

NYU and ffVC collaborate on AI startup support program

PE Hub Network, July 27

The NYU Tandon School of Engineering and ff Venture Capital announced an accelerator-type program for artificial intelligence startups, called NYU/ffVC AI NexusLab. The New York City-based program will recruit worldwide for five early-stage startups in sectors including software, data and security, health care, finance, and media.

United States directed energy weapons industry scrutinized in new research

WhaTech, July 13

The report focuses on United States major leading industry players providing information such as company profiles, product picture and specification, capacity, production, price, cost, revenue and contact information. Upstream raw materials and equipment and downstream demand analysis is also carried out.

Air Force has directed energy weapons; now comes the hard part

Air Force Times, July 25

Coverage of military leadership comments at the second annual Directed Energy Summit in DC last week.

Directed energy weapons making a great leap forward

Defense Systems, July 30

Discussion with Lockheed Martin directed energy expert about ramped-up interest in directed energy technology and laser weapons.

TRAINING

Defeating Islamic State: On the frontline with the Peshmerga

Jerusalem Post, July 30

At the Bnaslawa training base, trainers and trainees evinced mutual respect. The trainers were impressed with the abilities of the peshmerga and say their own job was really just “cleaning up” or “sharpening” skills the Kurds already had.

Group Of Peshmerga Completes Specialized Coalition Training

NRT, July 29

A group of Peshmerga forces trained by advisors from the U.S.-led coalition completed ten weeks of military training on July 28.

New York, Massachusetts EOD techs diffuse situations at JRTC

New York National Guard, July 26

The JRTC allows Army units to conduct combat training in a realistic environment which features a well-trained opposing force, civilian role-players on the battlefield, high-tech systems which monitor the action and observer-controllers to evaluate unit actions. Training included C-IED.

JIDA

The Global Business Brief

Defense One, July 29

Boom: a big explosive ordnance disposal conference in Bethesda, Md. Expect Army Lt. Gen. Michael Shields, director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency, the group formerly known as JIEDDO, to talk about new tech to counter IEDs.

DOD

Joint Force 2035: Lasers, Biotech and Global Instability

Defense News, July 29

New Document: “Joint Operating Environment 2035”:

“Challenges will come both from great-power competitions and complex issues such as insurgencies or mass migration; the spread of technology means the US military dominance is not assured... the rise of non-state actors such as the Islamic State group – described in the report as “privatized violence” – will continue, as will the rapidity of those groups coming together. The spread of 3D-printing technologies and readily available commercial technology such as drones means those groups can be increasingly effective against a fully prepared military force.”